

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)234**

**(Question Serial No. 2763)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that \$2 billion will be earmarked for implementing a Market Modernisation Programme over the next 10 years, which will entail a comprehensive review of nearly 100 existing markets and improvement works including early installation of air-conditioning systems, major overhaul or redevelopment. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the principles to be adopted for allocating the \$2 billion provision;
2. the manpower and expenditure involved for implementing the programme. Will a dedicated team be set up to implement the programme? If yes, what is the rank of the officer leading the team and how many staff members are involved?
3. the specific implementation details of the programme, including the definition of modernised market, the objectives of the programme, whether the programme will be implemented by phases, the application, approval and monitoring mechanisms of the programme, and the implementation timetable of the entire programme;
4. the approach to be adopted in conducting the comprehensive review of about 100 existing markets, including the scope of review and the follow-up arrangements after the review; and
5. the criteria to be adopted in identifying the markets that require an overhaul or redevelopment, the priorities to be set for the overhaul or redevelopment of such markets and the list of existing markets which will be accorded priority for an overhaul or redevelopment.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)

Reply:

In his Budget Speech delivered in February 2018, the Financial Secretary announced that \$2 billion would be earmarked for implementing a Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) over the next 10 years. This will entail a comprehensive review of public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), and improvement works including early installation of air-conditioning (A/C) systems, major overhaul or redevelopment, with a view to improving the operating environment of the markets and putting the land resources to most gainful use. The project scope may include A/C, re-design and re-zoning of stalls, re-configuration of layout, drainage improvement, upgrading works for fire services installations, electricity supply, toilet facilities, ventilation, lighting, signage, replacement of floor tiles, provision of barrier free access, façade and external wall decoration, lifts and escalators, etc. as appropriate. A dedicated team, headed by a D2 officer and comprising 21 staff, has been set up in the Department to take forward the MMP and other reviews. The estimated staff costs in 2018-19 are \$17.9 million.

There is no pre-set limit on the number of markets that may benefit from the dedicated funding, which would depend on the actual circumstances of individual markets interested, scope and complexity of works proposed, and the mix of projects agreed over time. Public markets would be considered with regard to the physical condition of the markets concerned, their geographical location and distribution, business viability, tenants' readiness, etc.

The capital works expenditure and recurrent costs of any project could only be determined when the scope of works is finalised, and upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

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